INSIDE
Spring
Home &
Garden

the hub

MARCH 24, 2011 FAIR HAVEN • LITTLE SILVER • OCEANPORT • RED BANK • RUMSON • SEA BRIGHT • SHREWSBURY • TINTON FALLS gmnews.com

Night at the museum

LAUREN CASSELBERRY

Johnny Sniffen (l) and Ian Smith, fourth-graders at Wolf Hill School in Oceanport, portray President Abraham Lincoln and Scottish knight William Wallace for the interactive Wolf Hill Wax Museum on March 17.

Advocates urge adoption of bicycle/pedestrian plan

Menna: Parts of plan are not practical for Red Bank

BY ANDREW DAVISON
Staff Writer

Members of Red Bank Safe Routes want to see recommendations from a study of safety improvements to protect bicyclists and pedestrians, integrated into the borough's master plan.

The local advocacy group, whose mission is to encourage walking and cycling throughout the borough, asked the Red Bank Borough Council at its March 16 meeting when the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan would become part of the mast as an updated circulation element

The study, prepared by Urban neers, recommended the plan be in rated in the master plan as an imm action.

According to borough offici Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan will go Planning Board prior to being cons for council approval.

Borough Administrator Stanley Sickels said the normal process for additions or changes to the master plan comes through the Planning Board before receiving the council's formal approval.

However, Mayor Pasquale Menna said that he is concerned about adopting the complete plan without vetting individual elements.

"There are a lot of things on that plan that will never see the light of day," he said, mentioning the proposed traffic circles.

"There are certain parts of that plan that are 'pie in the sky' and impractical in the circumstances of Red Bank

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Tax appeals tax increase

Public hearing on 2011 pl scheduled for April 26

BY ANDREW DAVISON
Staff Writer

The borough introduced a preliminary budget at the Red Bank Borough Council meeting March 16 with a $542,434 tax levy increase.

According to Borough Administrator Stanley Sickels, this equates to a 2.6-cent increase in the tax rate to 51 cents per $100 of assessed valuation, up from 48 cents last year.

The owner of a house assessed at the borough average of $403,696 can expect an approximate increase of $105 in their municipal tax bill, he said.

"This year we were hit with $980,000 in increases that were beyond our control," Sickels said in explaining the increase.

The anticipated 2011 budget of $19,945,500, absorbs the $980,000 of costs with a $573,000 increase to the total budget, Sickels said.

The 2010 budget amounted to $19,372,287.

The budget included $559,500 in costs that are excluded from the recently imposed two-percent cap, including pension and insurance increases.

Sickels highlighted the cost of the snow emergencies, which he estimated cost the borough $540,000 for the whole winter.

"That's totaling up all our man hours, our costs for equipment, the time our people put in," Sickels said.

(Continued on page 17)

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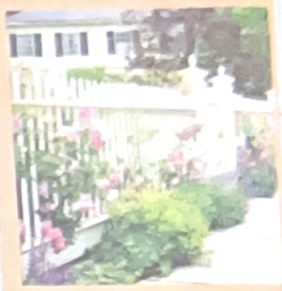

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Warmer weather means it's time to spruce up your house.

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Don't wait for the summer to head down to the shore. There are things to do right now.

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BY ANDREW DA
Staff Writer

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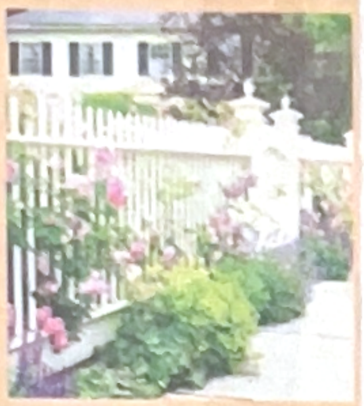

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Shore musician finds his hero

'Jerseyboy Hero' premieres April 7 in Red Bank

BY ANDREW DAVISON
Staff Writer

Chris Vaughn set out to promote his music and found an ally in rock icon Bruce Springsteen.

For Red Bank musician Chris Vaughn, making music was the easy part. But getting it out there would require the help of one of his idols.

Vaughn chronicled his musical journey along the Jersey Shore in his narrative documentary "Jerseyboy Hero," to premiere in Red Bank on April 7.

"It's a documentary about a local New Jersey musician trying to get his music made and into the hands of one of his two biggest hometown heroes, [Bruce] Springsteen or [Jon] Bon Jovi," Vaughn explained.

"It's about seeing which local legend would help out a Jersey boy."

Vaughn said that he had four goals: to record a debut album; get that music to Bon Jovi or Springsteen; and finish a film about his quest and distribute it.

"I've gotten three out of four," he said, adding that the Red Bank premiere at Clearview Cinema is part of that final goal.

Vaughn said he made the film as a creative approach to the challenges record labels and aspiring musicians face.

Due to the Internet's rise and the paradigm shift currently facing the music industry, labels no longer have promotional budgets.

"Unless you develop your own [fan] base and following," Vaughn said, record companies are not interested.

"They don't have the funds to get into the radio, TV, film and print marketing without a huge budget."

Vaughn said that he also noticed the popularity of reality TV.

"I saw a trend in people being really interested in a story," he said, referencing shows like "American Idol," where contestants often share biographical stories.

"They always want to know the story, so I thought it would be an interesting approach to document the journey," Vaughn said.

"I figured 'Hey, [Springsteen and Bon Jovi] are both right here, it's worth a shot.'

"I couldn't believe nobody had thought of it yet."

The West Long Branch native's primary background is in music, so Vaughn had to teach himself film techniques and video editing.

Vaughn said his friends played a huge part, providing help and financial assistance when necessary.

"People helped me out. I got it done with my friends' help, and here we are," Vaughn said.

Vaughn, who sings and plays guitar, said his music has been described as radio rock, hard rock, alternative rock, grunge rock, and pop rock.

"I just call it rock," he said.

Ultimately, Vaughn did meet Springsteen and enlisted his help.

"It's really not a big secret who's in it," Vaughn said, "All it would take is one Internet search [to find out]."

"The way it came about was a mystical experience."

According to Vaughn, he had accepted that he was not going to meet either musician and had begun filming the end of the movie.

However, he stumbled on a last chance while performing in Asbury Park.

"By some miracle, [Springsteen] was practicing across the street," he said, and after some encouragement, Vaughn gave it one more shot

"In my head, it was over, and then we go and actually get him," he said.

Vaughn said that Springsteen came back later to finish filming and sit down for a drink with him.

"He's just a real person; [success] didn't go to his head," he said.

Vaughn said that making the film was an extraordinary experience.

"It was really difficult at times, and there's a lot of things that I would do differently, but I learned a ton," he said.

"I learned so much about how to make music and make an album."

Beyond creating the film, Vaughn scored it, appropriately, with all his own music.

"It's a story of self-reliance and coming from nothing and working toward your goal," he said.

Vaughn said that everyone he encountered in the area during the four-year process was eager to help and support him.

"Everybody is pretty community oriented in this area," he said.

"Jerseyboy Hero" will premiere at 8 p.m. April 7 at Clearview Red Bank Art Cinemas, 36 White St. Tickets are available at www.jerseyboyhero.com.